

WO-114

Sturgis Building

102 W. Market St., Snow Hill

WO-114
Sturgis Building
Snow Hill
private

c. 1894

Clearly one of the most distinctive examples of late nineteenth-century commercial architecture is the Sturgis building, a two-story, four-bay structure that stands opposite the Worcester County Courthouse. Segmental brick arches highlight each of the door and window openings, and an elaborate metal cornice with a fan-shaped crest stretches the length of the facade. Also surviving are ball-shaped finials that enhance the roofline. As with most buildings standing in the center of Snow Hill, this structure was erected shortly after the disastrous 1893 fire.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: STRAIS BUILDING

MHT Inventory Number: WO-114

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s):
ARCHITECTURE, ECONOMIC
- 2) Geographic Orientation:
EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
1870-1930 INDUSTRIAL-URBAN DOMINANCE
- 4) Resource Type(s):
 1. *STANDING STRUCTURES*
 - a. *COMMERCIAL BUILDING*

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic STURGIS BUILDING

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 102 West Market Street ___ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	___x occupied	___ agriculture
___x building(s)	___x private	___ unoccupied	___x commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___x in process	___x yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			___ private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 ___ federal ___x state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Sturgis Building stands on West Market Street near the intersection of Washington Street in the center of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, four-bay brick commercial building faces southeast.

Built around 1894, the pressed, stretcher bond brick commercial building is marked by three bays on the first floor and four on the second. The first floor is dominated by a segmental arched opening that allow access to three recessed doors, one that leads to the second floor and the other two that open into the first floor shop spaces. Partially glazed doors topped by single-pane transoms open into the shops and a pair of louvered doors cover the center door. The door surrounds are finished with late nineteenth-century trim. Highlighting the segmental brick arches are courses of corbelled bricks. Flanking the entrance are large segmental arched window openings. A six-over-one sash window lights the eastern shop space, while a single-pane sash window lights the western side. Each window is fitted with a rusticated red sandstone sill and are topped by raised brick segmental arches. Located beneath each first floor window is a small segmental arch foundation window.

The second floor is pierced by four two-over-two sash windows that boast segmental arches and rusticated marble sills. As with the first floor windows the section of the surround below the arch is incised with a Victorian line decoration. Marking the wall above each second floor window is a small rectangular screened vent. Stretching across the top of the building is a heavy bracketed metal cornice with acanthus leaf ornaments at each end and small medallions that are evenly space across the fascia. The top of the cornice boasts a fan-shaped crest with ball-topped finials at the top and to each side. The outer ends of the building are highlighted by larger ball-topped finials as well.

The balance of the building is largely covered by adjacent commercial structures, and the interior was not seen.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Sturgis building is a prominent commercial structure that faces the Worcester County Courthouse in the center of Snow Hill along West Market Street. The two-story, four-bay Victorian storefront boasts an intact metal cornice complete with a fan-shaped crest and ball-topped finials. The pressed brick facade is pierced by segmental arched door and window openings. The center arched entrance permits access to three separate doors that lead to first and second floor spaces. A variety of rusticated sandstone and marble along with corbelled brick courses highlight the individual openings. The Sturgis building is one of the most complete of the late nineteenth-century commercial structures standing in the central business district.

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Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

H | | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul B. Touart Architectural Historian		
organization	Worcester County	date	6/28/88
street & number	Worcester County Courthouse	telephone	301-632-1194
city or town	Snow Hill	state	MD 21863

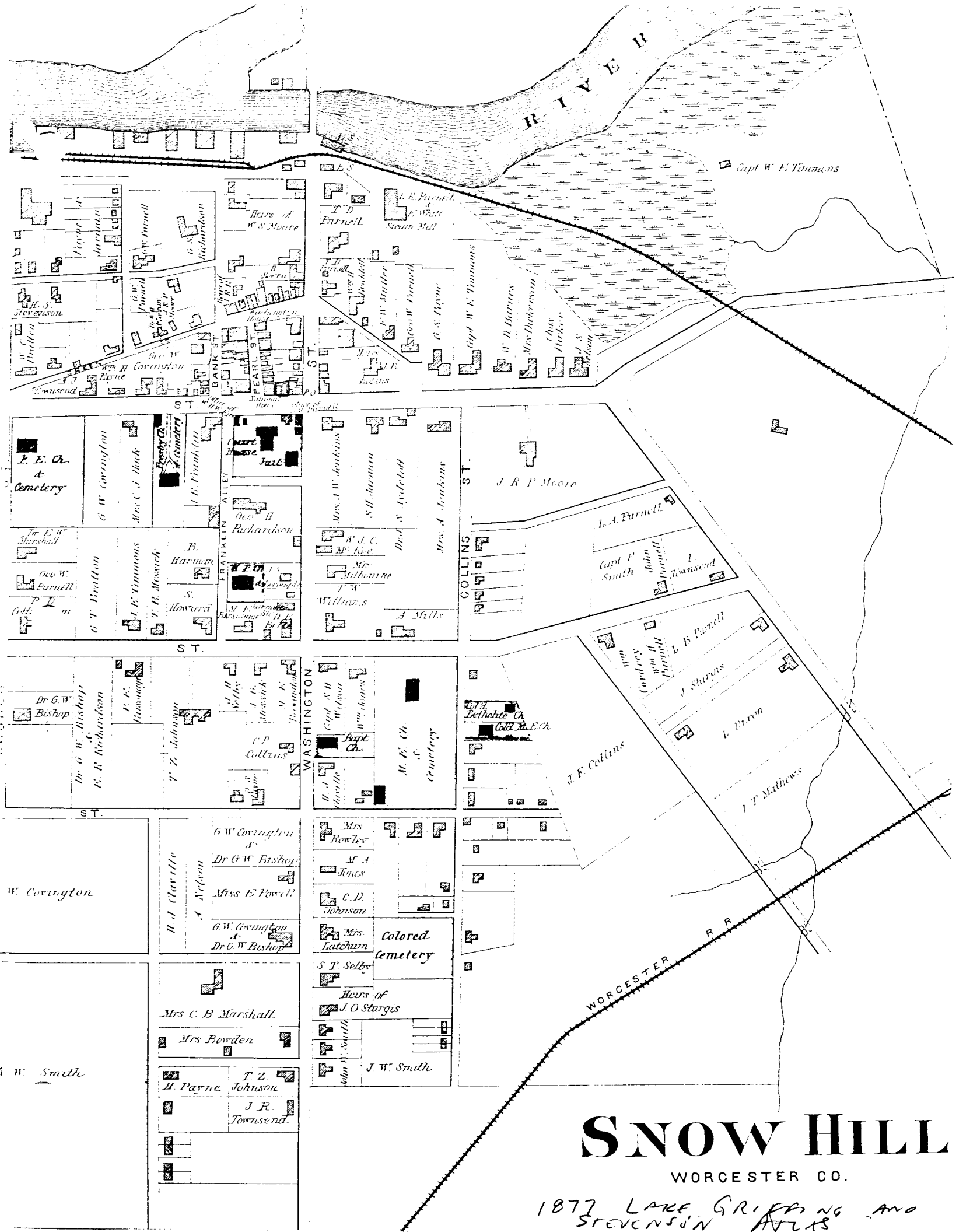
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Worcester</u> TOWN <u>Snow Hill</u> VICINITY STREET NO. <u>102 W. Main St.</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>offices</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>F. Sturgis</u> PRESENT USE <u>offices</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2</u>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>WC-114</u> 2. NAME <u>Sturgis Building</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>c. 1900</u> STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>no</u> <p>The Sturgis Building is three bays wide on its first story facade and four bays on second story. The central bay of the first story contains an alcove with three doors leading to the offices within and upstairs. All openings are segmental arches and red sandstone sills. The cornice is a decorative affair with panels between brackets, then a series of circular discs above. Between the upper windows and cornice are applied panels. In the center of the cornice is a half circle fan with three finials. At each end are finials.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>good</u>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> <u>Maryland Historical Trust</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Nov 1969</u>	



SNOW HILL

WORCESTER CO.

1877 LAKE GRIPPING AND
STEVENSIN
ALAS

This is a detailed historical map of a coastal town, likely Snow Hill, Maryland. The map shows a grid of streets including Washington, Pearl, Green, Market, and Church. Buildings are depicted with various symbols and numbers. A large area on the left is labeled 'Pocomoke River' and 'Pocomoke Bank'. A compass rose and a scale bar are present. A small inset map in the bottom left corner shows the town's location within a larger region. The map is titled 'SNOW HILL' in a circular stamp at the top right.

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STURGIS BUILDING
Snow Hill Quarangle, 1966

